

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, April 3, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

ATTENDEES:

Erica Beutler
Gretchen Helmreich
Jay Lyon
John O'Connell
Peter Schlossman
Diane Sutliff
Sara Zimmerman
Deb Groh (Chicago Park District)
Carlton Jones (HPNWLL)
Lola Post (HPNWLL)
David Post (HPNWLL)
Shannon Condon (RMIA)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

Introductions

Review of March 2024 Minutes:

- Peter made a motion to approve the March minutes with Erica's edits; John O. seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- Money is coming in for the Farmer's Market. Thank you to Gretchen and the Farmer's Market Committee for its work getting fiscally ready for this season.
- Contributions are coming in for the Summer Concert Series. Appreciation goes out to the promotion team for launching this year's fundraising appeal.
- Payment arrived for the DFA (Dog Friendly Area) Doggie Easter Egg Hunt.
- Fraudulent charges went through on HPAC's long closed Fifth Third Bank account. The account was closed again, and all fraudulent charges were reversed.
- HPAC's Chase debit card was compromised, so that card was cancelled. Diane has a new one on order. The fraudulent charge to Twitch was reversed.
- Insurance for HPAC directors and officers was paid in March.
- Formal financial reports will be sent under separate cover.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Gym Floors Repair:**
 - CPD took samples from the gym floor; mold was found in some areas.
 - The park district is replacing, sanding, and sealing areas of the floor.
 - HPAC has concerns about moisture and mold under the gym floor and will address them with the park district.
 - **Coiled Serpent Mound:**
 - No update.
 - **Front Lawn Tree Replacement:**
 - The park district will plant eight trees in front of the field house and in the basketball area. No timeframe.
 - **Fieldhouse Front Native Shrub Garden:**
 - Bogdan provided several options; Deb will share with HPAC.
 - **Other:**
 - Armando, Horner Park's hourly attendant, is leaving his position on May 6.
 - Erica made a motion to thank Armando with a \$50 Amazon gift card; Gretchen seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Kiosk maintenance:**
 - Peter made a motion to purchase wood stain for the kiosk, in an amount up to \$50; John O seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
 - No report.
- **Sunken Gardens Park:**
 - No report.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - **Tree replacement:** The new tree will be planted by the end of May.

Needs Assessment Committee:

- Diane noted the needs assessment list is long and includes many project ideas in the initial stages of development.
 - She suggests six items to consider before bringing a project for an HPAC vote.
 - She will schedule a meeting to discuss how to move project ideas forward.
- Deb requested HPAC support to buy a new table saw and riving knife for the wood shop.
 - Eric briefly joined the meeting to share his knowledge of table saw options.
 - Deb will investigate using the park district's tax exempt status for the purchase.
 - Peter made a motion to fund a new table saw and riving knife, up to \$5,800; Erica seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Fundraising:**
 - The Doggie Easter Egg Hunt was successful and raised over \$2,000.
- **Build and Maintenance:**
 - The committee is organizing an Earth Day clean up event on April 20.
 - **Phase III report:**
 - The committee is waiting to hear from the park district about the installation of the turf play field in the center of the big dog area.

Stewardship Committee:

- All parks are registered for Earth Day clean ups
 - Horner, Ravenswood Manor, and Jacob Parks will participate on April 20.
 - Sunken Gardens and Buffalo Parks will participate on other dates.
- John O shared concerns about the Bradford Pear trees, planted in the parkway on the west (Sunnyside) side of Buffalo Park.
 - John O made a motion to contact the City of Chicago forestry department to discuss options for removing and replacing the trees; Sara seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Communications Committee:

- Temporary signs have been posted in the natural area; fewer dogs are being seen.
- The committee is eager for a more permanent park district solution but is happy with the current results.
- The committee will develop flyers for future education/outreach, no event yet planned.
- Updates to the new website are continuing. Kristen is working closely with Diane to address PayPal hiccups.
- Kirsten would like to coordinate/communicate HPAC volunteer opportunities and events.
- Kirsten is looking for topic ideas for the monthly highlights outreach email.

Concerts Committee:

- The 2024 season is set!
 - **Los Gallos**, a terrific Tex-Mex band, kicks off the season (June 14).
 - Local favorite **Phil Angotti** plays music from his critically acclaimed 2023 album "Once Around Again," as well as some Beatles favorites (June 28).
 - **Jon Langford and Sally Timms** team up to electrify the crowd (July 12).
 - **The Narloch Piano Recital** gives a chance to check out some of the best local talent (July 14).
 - **Pravda Records Night** showcases two artists on the label that was just named a 2023 Chicago Reader "best in Chicago" winner, with Steve Dawson and The Handcuffs a formidable 1-2 punch at this year's Horner Park show (July 26).
 - **The Horner Park Jazz Band** performs Sunday Jazz in the Park immediately following the Ravenswood Manor Garden Walk (July 28).

- **Kristina Cottone** and **Nashon Holloway** give us a glimpse into today's female singer/songwriter scene with soulful performances (Aug. 9).
- **Cielito Lindo** performs mariachi favorites at our season finale Jacob Park show, sponsored by the Old Town School of Folk Music (Sept. 6).
- The Concerts Committee is providing the entertainment for RMIA's Manor Bash on Aug. 24:
 - **LBP Dance Co.** takes the stage with its annual recital.
 - The **New Cats** bring bluegrass to the park.
 - **The Red Roses** play hits from the '90s to today, with something for everyone.
- RMIA has requested HPAC assistance with several community events.
 - John O made a motion for HPAC to partner with RMIA for the 2024 Easter Egg Hunt, Garden Walk, Manor Bash, and holiday lighting ceremony; Sara seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Horner BrewFest Committee:

- The committee's next meeting is Wednesday, April 10.
- The ticket vendor for this year's BrewFest is Eventbrite.

Farmers Market Committee:

- This year's Farmer's Market will run from June 1 - October 12, with 20 market days.
- Gretchen is receiving/reviewing Farmers Market applications.
 - Vendors from last year's market are returning.
 - Many applications from new, potential vendors.
- September 21 will be kids' day featuring:
 - Kid-focused music and food
 - Crafts provided by Bateman parents group.
- The committee will again pay a stipend to the musicians and yoga instructor.

312 RiverRun Committee:

- The committee received three checks of \$250 each from State Rep. Jaime Andrade, Ald. Matt Martin, and Ald. Rosanna Rodriguez-Sanchez.
- The committee seeks additional volunteers for the event on Saturday, June 22.
- Peter will provide a portable battery pack for the race timer.

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

- **General HPAC Fundraising:**
 - Erica suggested an expansion of general HPAC fundraising efforts.

- **Arboretum designation:**
 - No update.

Announcements:

- No update

Events:

- **April 20, 2024:** Earth Day
- **May 11, 2024:** River Day
- **June 22, 2024:** 312 RiverRun
- **July 19, 2024:** Horner Park BrewFest
- **August 24, 2024:** Manor Bash

Motion to Adjourn:

Sara motioned to adjourn at 8:31 PM; Jay seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

The next HPAC meeting will be Wednesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Horner Park Fieldhouse.